

IN THE CLAIMS

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A spring steel ~~excellent in sag resistance and fatigue~~
~~property containing~~ comprising:

C: 0.5 to 0.8% by mass (hereinafter, referred to as %),

Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,

Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,

Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,

V: 0.5% or less (including 0%),

P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),

S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),

Al: ~~0.05%~~ 0.01% or less (excluding 0%), and

Fe and inevitable impurities ~~as the balance~~, wherein

the Si content and the Cr content satisfy the following formula (1):

$$0.8 \times [\text{Si}] + [\text{Cr}] \geq 2.6 \dots (1)$$

(wherein, [Si] and [Cr] respectively represent the Si content (%) and the Cr content (%)).

2. (Original) The spring steel according to claim 1, wherein the Mn content is 0.5% or more.

3. (Original) The spring steel according to claim 1, wherein the Cr content is 1.3% or more.

4. (Currently Amended) The spring steel according to claim 1, further ~~containing~~ comprising at least one selected from Ni: 0.5% or less (excluding 0%) and Mo: 0.4% or less (excluding 0%).

5. (New) The spring steel according to claim 1, wherein the V content is 0.05 to 0.5%.

6. (New) The spring steel according to claim 5, wherein the Mn content is 0.5% to 1.5%.

7.(New) The spring steel according to claim 5, wherein the Cr content is 1.3% to 4.0%.

8. (New) The spring steel according to claim 5, further comprising at least one selected from:

Ni: 0.5% or less (excluding 0%), and

Mo: 0.4% or less (excluding 0%).

9. (New) The spring steel according to claim 1, consisting essentially of:

C: 0.5 to 0.8%,

Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,

Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,

Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,

V: 0.5% or less (including 0%),

P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),

S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
Al: 0.01% or less (excluding 0%), and
Fe and inevitable impurities.

10. (New) The spring steel according to claim 5, consisting essentially of:

C: 0.5 to 0.8%,
Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,
Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,
Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,
V: 0.05 to 0.5%
P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
Al: 0.01% or less (excluding 0%), and
Fe and inevitable impurities.

11. (New) The spring steel according to claim 8, consisting essentially of:

C: 0.5 to 0.8%,
Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,
Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,
Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,
V: 0.05 to 0.5%
P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
Al: 0.01% or less (excluding 0%),
Ni: 0.5% or less (excluding 0%),

Mo: 0.4% or less (excluding 0%), and
Fe and inevitable impurities.

12. (New) The spring steel according to claim 1, consisting of:

C: 0.5 to 0.8%,
Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,
Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,
Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,
V: 0.5% or less (including 0%),
P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
Al: 0.01% or less (excluding 0%), and
Fe and inevitable impurities.

13. (New) The spring steel according to claim 5, consisting of:

C: 0.5 to 0.8%,
Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,
Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,
Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,
V: 0.05 to 0.5%
P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),
Al: 0.01% or less (excluding 0%), and
Fe and inevitable impurities.

14. (New) The spring steel according to claim 8, consisting of:

C: 0.5 to 0.8%,

Si: 1.2 to 2.5%,

Mn: 0.2 to 1.5%,

Cr: 1.0 to 4.0%,

V: 0.05 to 0.5%

P: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),

S: 0.02% or less (excluding 0%),

Al: 0.01% or less (excluding 0%),

Ni: 0.5% or less (excluding 0%),

Mo: 0.4% or less (excluding 0%), and

Fe and inevitable impurities.